

A REFUTATION

Of a false and Impious Aspersion cast on the late Lord COTTINTON,

by the Writer of the Popish Currant.

THe Petty Scribler of Popish lies in his Sacrilegious Libell, call'd, *The Popish Currant*, set forth on Friday the 18th. of Feb. having cast a false and Impious Aspersion on a Person of great worth and honour, many years since deceas'd whose most signal services to his K. and Country during the course of his life, deserv'd a most grateful Remembrance, it has been thought fit to disabuse the Publick by a plain Refutation of what is falsely charg'd upon him by this Impostor.

He says in the first Page of that Popish Currant, that it sa certain truth which he is ready to Justifie to the Teeth of any Tory Cavillers, (for so he calls all those that question the truth of his malicious Impostures) *That the Lord Cottington dying at Valladolid in Spain, by his will ordered his Corps to be for the then present buried in the Jesuits Colledge there, but on condition that it should be transmitted into England as soon as Popery should be there settled.*

To satisfie the publick of what is truth, in this Assertion they are hereby made acquainted that the Lord Cottington's Will which he made at Valladolid, was brought over into England shortly after his Decease by some of his Servants, and was prov'd and entred in the Prerogative Office in the month of August 1666. where any man may see it that please; in which Will the whole clause relating to the disposall of his body, is word for word, as follows.

I Order when it pleaseth the Almighty God to take me out of this present world, that my body be buried and deposited in the English Colledge Church of this City, in th. Chappell and place where my Executors please to dispose it, till it please the Almighty God to settle the differences of the Kingdom of England, that my Nephews and Executors in due time may have it remov'd thither.

And this is the whole truth and nothing but the truth of the Lord Cottington's Last, and only Will and Testament at Valladolid for the disposal of hi body, as is ready to be justified to the Teeth of any impudent Impostor that dares question it.

As to the Spanish inscription which he says was on the Lord Cottington's Tomb at Valladolid, (though in truth he had no Tomb there) on which the Libellour seems to have grounded his Presumption for its being that Lords Will to have his Corps transmitted into England as soon as Popery should be there settled: I say in case there were such an Inscription on a Wall there near the place where his Corps was buried, and that this were a true Copy of it (concerning the truth of which I shall not trouble my self to enquire) it plainly appears by the many Errors committed in it, that it was written by rote and without any due attention to the truth of what is said

said & the Libellour who is free enough to question the truth of the Titles and Offices there given him, had he been ingenious might have suspected as well the truth of what is there laid to be his Will concerning the disposall of his body, and might have search'd the proper Office, where his true Will was to be found.

Any man of a Candid disposition having seen the careless wording of that Spanish Inscription, would have given at least this Candid Interpretation of it, that the Fathers there looking upon it as an Honour to their Chappel to have a Person of his quality there inter'd, thought fit whilst his Corps continued in it to have his Memory preserv'd by some Inscription, and not minding any accuracy in setting down his Honourable Titles, and probably not having seen his Will, but hearing something confusedly of it, or at least not minding the Exact words of it for the Future disposall of his body when they read it, they set up this general Character of him, which being in a Forraign Countrey, and his Corps being not to be continued there, they thought needed not any great Exactness.

In the mean time it seems somewhat strange that this Popish Libellour who thinks it unreasonable that a true Protestant as himself should give the least credit either to the living Oaths or dying Protestations, if any Jesuit or Papist should build so much on a Triviall Inscription written by some such on a Wall at Randome as to think it a most convincing Argument (as he calls it) of the certainty of the Plot.

Another thing which weighs much with this Popish writer is that this body was not brought over till somewhat near the time of the discovery of the Plot. *To this its Answer'd.*

First, to a thing well known to hundreds of Gentlemen and Persons of Honour who have been acquainted with that Family, that they have constantly at all times declar'd since his Majesties Restauration that it was the Will of the Lord Cottington that his body should be brought over upon their being invested in his Estate, and that the thing has been often design'd though still delay'd till the Year 78.

Secondly, If a Reason be desired for the delay, you may consider of what follows.

1. After his Majesties Restauration, and that Family's being invested in the Lord Cottington's Estate there were considerable Summs of Moneys to be raised to pay the said Lords Debts, which could not conveniently be done under some years time.

2. There happen'd after that an unhappy difference betwixt the Father Sr. Francis Cottington and his Eldest Son, which lasted some years.

3. That being ended the Son was willing to settle himself in the world by match before he would resolve of sending for his Uncle's body, and being at length happily setl'd in the State of Marriage, he did not Enjoy it longe're he dyed.

4. As for the present Gentleman who is the Soul surviving Heir of the Family, its well known under what unfortunate Circumstances he has layen for these many years past, and is still notwithstanding which he at length considering himself the last of his Family, and being without any possibility of Issue (unless his Sacred Majesty conisiderating his condition shall at some time please to grant him a Commission of Review for the re-hearing of his cause, a gracious favour which many able Divines and Civilians conceive very reasonable to be granted) and being therefore desirous to see his Uncle's Will fulfill'd before his death; he came to a resolve to

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pay this Pious Devoir to his deceased Anchester, and sent for his body accordingly, which being done so many Months before the discovery of the Plot, I wonder whence this Libellour concludes it to have any Relation to it, or what imaginable Reason he conceives this Gentleman should have for Anticipating his Uncle's Will, if it had been as he from the Spanish Inscription concludes it, for can any man imagine if such an Execrable design as is sworn by the King's Evidence had been Executed, but there would have followed great Tumults in the Nation, and is it not Obvious to all men that no time could be proper for bringing over a body in such an account but when all Tumults were appeas'd.

Again I would ask any rational man whether he thinks it not naturally probable that any Noble man of *England*, Papist or Protestant dying beyond the Seas, would order in his Will that his body should be brought over and inter'd in *England* whether the Catholick Religion were establish'd here or not, and whether it be not a thing generally done.

As to the Libellous Reflections on the Earl of *Danby* for sending his Warrant to the Commissioners of the Custom-house for permitting the *Lord Cottington's* bones to be landed without paying duty & so defrauding the King of his Rights; I only Answer that I do not doubt but his Majesty is well satisfied how tender this Libellour is of his Rights: in the mean time if his Majesty please to remit the duty payable for landing a Corps, especially this being the Relict of a person who faithfully serv'd him, lost his Estate, and dyed in Exile for him; I hope no good Subject has cause to complain.

When this Libellour says that the *Lord Cottington* was question'd by Parliament, I know not what Parliament he means, unless it be the infernal Rump, (an honest Parliament I no way doubt to the Honour of this seditious Scribler) who gave this Lord's Estate to *Bradshaw* for his sacrilegious presumption in passing that Execrable Sentence of death on his dread Sovereign.

If it be true what this Popish writer says that the *Lord Cottington* dyed of the Roman Faith, it's no great wonder, if when having before his Eyes the perfidious dealing of the unnatural Subjects of *England* with their Sovereign, and finding more Injustice amongst the *Spaniards* with whom he had long Convers'd, he became at length of their Religion: though the Libellour is impiously injurious to him in this that he calls him a notorious Masqueraded Protestant here, for it's well known that he continued a Protestant for many years after his Exile in *Spain*, and did not become Catholick till some short time before his death, after he had seen a Confirmation of Malice in the King's Enemies, and the true Protestant Church here utterly subverted.

To conclude, I cannot but take notice of this Fellow's vilifying contempt of Honourary Titles, confer'd on Persons of descent by their Sovereign; he calling the *Lord Cottington's* Titles in the Spanish Inscription, *Rhadomontado* Titles and Offices that perhaps never belong'd to him: I must confess there are many Errors in that Inscription, but I must tell this impudent Scribler (he must pardon my Expressions) if he spent some time in reading the worthy Historians of our Age who record the memorable things of great men, as he spends a good part of his life in reading glossing and commenting upon the Old Golden *Legend*, (a Book look'd upon by the Papists themselves

selves as three Forms below the Story of *Tom Thumb*) he would find that the Lord *Cottington* was Baron *Cottington of Hanworth*, and that in his late Majesties Reign he was Chancellour of his Majesties Exchequer, master of his Court of Wards, Constable of the Tower, Lord High Treasurer of *England*, and one of his Majesties most honourable Privy Councill, that he was twice Ambassador in *Spain*, once for the said King, and a second time for his Sacred Majesty now Reigning; and he might read what worthy services he did as well there as at home for their Majesties and the Nation, but its beneath this writer to take notice of any mans deserts but his own, well then let him keep to his dear Legend, and by the continuance of his pretty Fables, let his writings deserve the continuall of the Title lately given them of harmless innocent Papers, as he shall have my Vote for being as great an Innocent as any in the Nation, and to let him accomplish the third Volume to sooth, of his incomparable History. And if in the plain way of a Christian he can at any time make a y subtilianiall discovery of a Plot contriv'd either by the Papists or any else ainst our Sacred King and Government, let him be accurst who does not afford him his helping hand in it, and embrace him as a Brother for so doing; but for him to be so very positive in asserting an impious untruth reflecting on the dead whose Ashes ought to be sacred, and vintyng persons of Honour, which afterwards must shame fully be recanted, it shews nothing of a Christian, or of a man of any moral honesty, if it was only a heedless mistake in him and not a Voluntary Impoliture, I hope when he has seen this Paper he will own it to the world a so; when the Kings Evidence has read this I doubt he will lose their thanks for his Corroborative, the main ingredient of a good Corroborative, honest truth, being here wanting had he only with Candour Related matter of Fact concerning the Spanish Inscription, and lett it to the Judgment of the world without his parergon of malicious insinuations and other unchristianly Reflections he should have found nothing but matter of Fact Candidly return'd in Answer, but now, if he dislikes the name of Libelour and the like, I appeal to the world whether he has not given these names to himself by what he has written, and I protest from my heart I hate to call any man out of his Name.

FINIS.